

NS-US045036



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Tadayuki HATSUDA et al. :
Serial No.: 10/816,892 :
Filed: April 5, 2004 :
For: DRIVE APPARATUS FOR VEHICLE :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the attached references to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Also attached is a completed PTO-1449 form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application. Thus, ***no fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement.*** However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

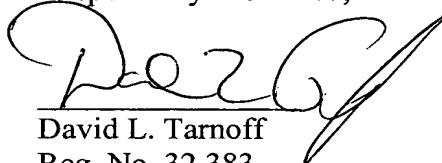
Satoshi Chujo et al., Publication No. VT-02-06 "e-4WD System" discloses a hybrid 4WD vehicle in which the front wheels are driven by an engine and the rear wheels are driven by an electric motor such as a DC motor. In this reference, the engine is also configured and arranged to drive a power generator at low to medium vehicle speeds. The hybrid 4WD vehicle disclosed in the above mentioned reference performs four-wheel drive using the engine and the DC motor with the power generated by the power generator when the vehicle starts moving or when the front wheels spin. When the engine is operating under other conditions, front-wheel drive (i.e., two-wheel drive) is performed using the engine alone. In the hybrid 4WD vehicle disclosed in the above mentioned reference, the drive force of the DC motor is transmitted to the differential gear of the rear wheels via a reduction gear and an electromagnetic clutch, and the drive force is then distributed to the left and right rear

wheels by the differential gear. When the hybrid 4WD vehicle disclosed in the above mentioned reference is driven in a two-wheel drive mode in which the drive force is generated by the engine alone, the torque-transmitting connections between the DC motor and the drive axles of the rear wheels (i.e., the driven wheels) are disengaged by the electromagnetic clutch to prevent the DC motor from idling with the rotation of the driven wheels. Also in the hybrid 4WD vehicle disclosed in the above mentioned reference, most of the rear drive components such as the electrical wiring, the DC motor, the reduction gear, the electromagnetic clutch, the differential gear, and other components are disposed under the rear trunk.

* * *

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Tarnoff
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Dated: 4-20-04

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

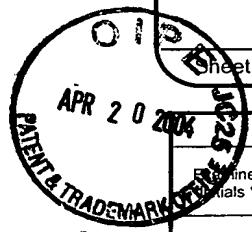
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

1

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<i>Complete if Known</i>	
Application Number	10/816,892
Filing Date	April 5, 2004
First Named Inventor	Tadayuki HATSUDA
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	NS-US045036



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	10/816,892
		Filing Date	April 5, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Tadayuki HATSUDA
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
(use as many sheets as necessary)			
Sheet	2	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	
		NS-US045036	

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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